God's Revenge against Murther:

Containing the

Confessions, Prayers, Discourses,

AND

Last Dying Sayings,

OF

Mr. Edward Harrison,

WHO WAS

Try'd, Convicted, and deservedly Sentenced the Sixth and Ninth of this Instant *April*, 1692. for the late unheard of Murther of Dr. *Clench*; and accordingly Executed in *Holbourn*, on *Friday* the Fifteenth following.

Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall, 1 Cor. 10. 12.

Licensed according to Order.

SECT. I.

Containing serious Advice to all those Young Gentlemen and others, whose Vitious Extravagancy and Debauchery, make them the Prodigy of the Age; especially such as were Mr. Harrison's Acquaintance, and were Spectators of his Execution.

SIRS,

YOU, that were Mr. *Harrison's* Friends and Acquaintance, (and without Reflection, let me add, sometimes perhaps *Companions* in Riot and Extravagancy:) you, whose Vitious Practices have first prevail'd to make you wish there were no future State of Reward or Punishment, and farther Continuance in Sin, so scar'd your Consciences, stupified your Understandings, and degraded your Reasons: As with the Fool in the Psalmist, *To say in your Hearts there is no God.* Here, by this late Sad Example, you may behold how *Empty* and *Idle*, how *Pernicious* and *Frightful*, how *Loathsome* and *Detestable* such Conceits appear;

when once *Serious Apprehensions* of Death approach, opening the Self-blinded Eyes of the Soul, and taking off those *Vain Imaginations*, which the Depravity of Nature, the inconsiderateness of Youth, the madness of Wine, or a Proud Fantastick Humour of Singularity have raised, and which tend no less to the Disturbance and Distraction of Humane Society in general; than to the particular Ruin and Destruction, (as well Temporal as Eternal,) of all those that suffer themselves to be infatuated by them.

There is not certainly a more effectual Way to revive the *Drooping Spirit* of Christian Religion in the World, than seriously to contemplate upon, and consider our Latter End, that we must shortly dye, and come to Judgement, and there receive a Reward according to our Deeds. If we were possess'd with a warm and constant Sense of these things, we should in all probability, endeavour *to walk circumspectly, not as Fools, but as Wise*, to be Holy in all manner of Conversation. Such is the Advantage of a Religious Consideration. Alass! were there but mature Thoughts, would but Men be wrought upon to act as reasonable Creatures; would they but juriciously and soberly weigh things in the Balance of their Understandings, they would seldom or never be found wanting in their Duty and Obligation: If Men would once entertain serious Thoughts of Religion, they would soon be open their Ears to its sweet and charming Language; if they would but fix their Eyes upon it, they would soon be captivated with its incomparable Beauty, it would presently attract their Love and Admiration, and enforce them to imbrace it with all profound Respect and Affection: A Consideration of our Latter End, a Serious Reflection upon Eternity, this would put the Soul in such a Frame and Posture, as would make it wrestle, and uneasy, wrack'd and impatient, till it had made his Peace with an incensed Judge, by Repentance not to be repented of; till it had procured it self a comfortable Expectation of his Mercy, for a glorious Advancement into an endless State of Bliss and Immortality: Such is the great Advantage of Considering our Latter End. *Oh that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their Latter End.* Now the *Four last things* to be continually remembred, are, *Death, a Judgment to come, Hell, and Celestial Glory.* And what more horribly than *Death*; What more terrible than such a *Judgment*? What more intolerable than *Eternal fire*? And what worthier Object can there be for us to exert our Faculties upon, than *God, and the Mansions of Everlasting Felicity*? How many Sins might we have avoided in the course of our Lives, if we had the serious Remembrance and Apprehension of these things? And how many Sins might we yet a void if we would but endeavour to have these things, as *Relicts and a Hand Writing against the Wall* constantly in our Eye? These things, as the *Pilot the Ship*, would direct and influence our whole Life and Conversation, would help us to steer our Course, and safely bring us to the Haven of Bliss and Happiness, such would be the great Advantage of considering our Latter End: If Men would but thus consider, no temptation would then take hold of them, nothing would ruffle and discompose their Consci-

Conscience, it would be *void of Offence both towards God, and towards Men.* But alass! In this lapsed and degenerate Age, in this miserable and naughty World, how many are there that have languish'd luke-warm and Feeble Opinions of Religion? If Judgment may be formed according to their Vicious and Immortal Conversation, what a Deluge of Prophaness and Impiety, Atheism and Infidelity overflows this *Sinful Land*, this poor Nation? How many live, as tho' they believed that Vertue and Vice, that God and the Devil were Words signifying nothing, as if they were the extract of some Melancholly and Pregnant Brain, as if they were invented meerly for Mens Terror and Affrightment? The *Halter*, the *Gibbet*, and the most terrible of Temporal Punishments, to have so little Influence upon Mens Lives, makes as small an Impression upon the Minds of Men, as those which which are Eternal: How many have suffered as *Murtherers*, as *Thieves*, as *Evil-doers*? And yet Men will not take Warning and Example; Men will not be deterred from Committing the like abominable, vile and enormous Offences. Every Sessions gives us too many fresh and sad Instances of this Truth. O that Men would become Wise, and consider not only Temporal but Eternal Punishments! Such a Consideration would, if any thing, oblige them to follow the important Business of Religion, *To hurt no Body by Word or Deed, to keep their Hands from shedding Innocent Blood, and from Picking and Stealing*: Such a Consideration would enforce them *to labour truly to get their own Living*, an to do their duty in that Station which Divine Providence hath allotted to them.

SECT. II.

Containing his Behaviour in Prison, and at the Place of Execution; with his Conference with Dr. H——, and several other Divines.

ON *Wednesday January the 6th.* Mr. *Harrison* was seized in *White Fryers*, by a Warrent from the Lord Chief Justice *Holt*; and committed to *Newgate* for the *Murther* of Dr. *Clench*, where he continued till the *6th* Instant; on which said Day, being brought to the *Old Baily*, he was there arraigned and tryed for the wilful *Murther* of the said Doctor; where, upon hearing the full Evidence, he was found Guilty.

Before his Tryal and Conviction he was not so much affected with the Thoughts of another World, but being now under a Sentence of Death, he began to consider of his Latter End; and by the Christian Charity of many Divines, particularly the the Reverend Dr. *H*——; He was much assisted by their Spiritual Comfort and Advice. Yet all they could do, while in *Newgate*, could not perswade him to a Confession of the *Murther*, saying that no Person could possibly prove it upon him. He was told that his Conscience was Ten Thousand Witnesses, and that if he did not confess it before he Dyed, (being concious of it) there could not be any Hopes of his Salvation, he was told, that he should take heed how he falsly appealed to the Heart searching God, for this would aggravate his Guilt. He often declar'd, that he had been a very great Sinner, and deserved this, and Ten times worse Punishment from God, and did expect no less than Death, and therefore was

was willing to prepare for it. On *Sunday* the 10th Instant, the Ordinary read Prayers, and Preached a Sermon to the Condemned Malefactors in the Chapple, where Mr. *Harrison* attended and was very attentive, seeming very much affected with those Preparity Exercises for his Death, but after the Sermon was ended and before Mr. *Ordinary* began his last Prayer, Mr. *Harrison* spoke to him and said he had made a good Discourse, and that as to what related to Blood guiltiness if any one of Dr. *Clench's* Murtherers were there, they could not but be touched the Heart, and be forced to a genuine Confession. (or Words to that Effect) And now good Reader, we come to the last Acts of Moments of unhappy Mr. *Edward Harrison*; who pursuant to the Sentence he received in the *Old Baily* was this Day about the Hour of Eleven, carried from *Newgate* to *Holbourn*, against *Furnivals-Inn*, where a Gibbet was Erected, for his Execution, before he was turned off he Prayed a considerable Time by himself.

The PRAYER during the Time of his Imprisonment, before his Execution.

O! most dreadful God, for the Passion of thy Son, I beseech Thee to grant a sinful and miserable Wretch leave to prostrate himself before the Throne of thy Grace, and implore that Mercy which I have formerly despised and abused: I am not Worthy, I confess, to lift up my Eyes towards Heaven, for I have fallen from Thee by mine Iniquities, and am by Nature the Son of Death, and a Thousand-fold more the Child of Hell by my Wicked Practises, and it becomes me in the greatest dejection of Spirit, to Sigh and Groan under the load of my Sins, which have been so great and many, so bold, so presumptuous and shameless, that when with an awakened Mind I reflect upon them, I am ready to sink into Hell, and despair of any Mercy; but of thy infinite Grace, thou hast promised Mercy to me in Christ, if I will turn to Thee with all my heart; Therefore, upon the Call of the Gospel I am now come in, and throwing down my Weapons, submit my self to thy Mercy: And because Thou requirest, as the condition of my Peace with Thee, that I should put away my Idols, and be at defiance with all Thine Enemies, whom I acknowled I have wickedly sided with against Thee: I do here, from the bottom of my heart, renounce them all; O that I could hate and abhor them more than that Death which I expect very shortly to Suffer for them. Bestow on me, O Lord, that ingenuous and godly Sorrow, which worketh Repentance, and unfeigned purposes of amendment of life. They come too late indeed, I may justly think, to find acceptance with Thee, and therefore, not without fear and trembling, and a great sense of my undeservings, I look up unto Thee, acknowledging Thy infinite Goodness, if thou wilt vouchsafe me but the smallest hope of Mercy: Strengthen me, good Lord, in the hour of Death, that I may not fall through the Temptations of Satan, but receive me through the Merits of thy only Son, and my dear Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen. FINIS.